

**(Pending Committee Approval)**

**Minutes of the Economic Development Committee for Bronx Community Board 8  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 @ 7:00 PM**

The meeting was held at KRVC, 505 W 236th St, Bronx, NY 10463

**Committee Members in attendance (9):** Constance Barnes-Watson (Chair), Caesar Tobar-Acosta (Vice Chair), Angel Ortega, Daniel Nunez, Richard A. Perez, Nick Fazio, Laura Levine-Pinedo, Karen Walker, Ashley Medina (Community Member)

**Absent Committee Members (0):**

**Board Members/Staff in attendance:** None

**Guest / Attendees:** Kahdija Jabbi (Community Planning Fellow)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

The chair opened the meeting by thanking the host and Committee Member, Laura Levine-Pinedo, and gave her the floor to share KRVC's history and work.

**Chairperson's report:**

- 12/19/25: EDC Chair, District Mgr. and Planning Fellow met with Camila Thomas, Associate Urban Designer • Bronx Borough Office, to discuss available tools for the retail development project. <https://www.livexyz.com/>
- 1/22/25: EDC Chair and Community Planning Fellow, Kahdija Jabbi, did a walkthrough of Knoll Crescent and visited all of the businesses, handed out CB8 cards, and listened to the merchants' concerns for the high rents (\$7K for approx. 600sqft), continuous closing of businesses - 2 closed the week prior to our visit. It was mentioned, but not confirmed, that Ben's Market may move into the empty Rite-Aid space.
- 1/6/26: EDC Chair met with Travis Proulx and Dr. Keisha Shay, Fordham University, to learn about opportunities at the forthcoming [Fordham Green Center](#) and upcoming [series of webinars](#) on Green Agriculture and Training.

Next agenda item:

Roll Call

- All members present

Next agenda item:

Approval of Committee Meeting of December 2, 2025

- Unanimous approval of the minutes

The next agenda item was Resolutions, and there were none at this meeting.

**The next agenda item was “Old Business,”** which included a discussion on the Skyview Key Food grocery store. Constance shared information from the Riverdale Main Street Alliance regarding the Trader Joe’s survey and general response that TJ wasn’t interested in pursuing a store at that site. Earlier in the day, the district office received a letter from BP Gibson, signed by our local and state representatives, imploring the landlord (Braun Management) to collaborate to bring relief to what is now becoming a “food desert” in this section of the Bronx.

The Committee engaged in a robust discussion about market research and considerations for businesses when seeking new locations to open. We noted factors such as traffic, parking, needed repairs, and demographic shopping trends that influence choices.

The Committee began discussing the Betty Campbell Adams, Most Valuable Merchant, Award, and the ongoing conversation about reaching more merchants and residents across our entire district. We discussed the criteria, what’s included/excluded, the past winners, how to avoid nepotism, and how to ensure a broad cross-section of the community is aware of the award. Committee Member, Daniel Nunez, has been working with Constance to update the flyer that we shared with the Committee for feedback and suggestions, which included:

- Committee to send comments/suggestions to the Chair by Friday, 1/10/26.
- Daniel and Caesar are willing to translate flyers and other materials into Spanish. Karen noted that we should consult with the district and the city to determine which languages are spoken in our district, so we can make the information accessible to as many community members as possible.
- We discussed additional ways to access the application, including adding a Google Form for completion and allowing video nominations (2 min max), and updating the application as follows:
  - Change “Please describe the business's contributions to the community and why you are making this nomination?” to “Provide 2 examples of how this business contributes to the neighborhood or community board”
- The MVM Press release goes out on February 15, and the Committee will reach out across the district to share flyers:
  - Laura offered to have her interns support the distribution social media effort; Caesar will distribute through the Kingsbridge Road Merchants’ Association; and Constance will revisit the stores along the Corridor Walk and Knolls Crescent. Constance will share with Katherine from the Kingsbridge BID.
- Constance and Caesar are to find the previous winners and nominees lists and share with the Committee.

The next item on the agenda was “New Business,” which focused on the 2028 Budget Priorities.

Constance shared excerpts from the BP’s website, which showed which priorities were approved in the 2026 budget. The Committee started discussing the impact of the MTA transit on the businesses and want to focus our priorities on helping them attract more business during this time. We noted they need support keeping the storefronts, sidewalk etc. clean (noting Broadway and W. 242<sup>nd</sup> Street as the worst area), and social media would help continue to drive traffic their way.

Constance noted that priorities are due in April and that the district office just shared a flyer soliciting community input on the budget priorities. Finally, we reviewed the upcoming Committee meeting dates, noted that one of our meetings will be during Passover. We acknowledged the holiday. Caesar consulted with colleagues who celebrated to help the Committee make our decision.

The Chair asked the Committee to move to adjourn. Caesar made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 8:25 PM

Submitted by Constance Barnes-Watson, Chair EDC